



Scanner zine

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TV PARTY - DOCUMENTARIES



King Of Punk: The Relevance Of A 3-Chord Revolution (*Etit/MVD*) Slightly bemusing but entertaining documentary that focuses on what Punk is, its origins, its lasting effect and its relationship with both the music industry and the individual. While featuring a host of well-known Punks, the documentary pivots primarily around all-girl quintet OBGYN and Boston label FNS Records.

OBGYN (the meaning of which is not fully explained; unless I missed it) is a young 5-piece female Punk band outta Fayetteville, North Carolina. Like all fledgling bands, there's a lot of naivety. They seem rather confused at times; one of them makes the statement, "Some of our songs are about politics, but we don't take it seriously." The film follows the band for about a

year and takes in the band's bubbly, frivolous beginnings through to a slightly bitter split with its (it has to be said, pretty smoking) drummer being fired for that age-old crime: the band didn't like her boyfriend!! It's also later stated that she was 'too hardcore' and a Republican. Meow!! It culminates with the band's split, over which the singer (who left due to becoming a Mum) is particularly reflective in a positive sense. The band seemed to attract a large proportion of skinheads to its shows including a few with the 'Cross Of Iron' mentality. It's a shame none of the band really got into Punk for the long-haul; but I guess they had their fun and, with this film, their 15 minutes.

The section on FNS Records, run by Patrick Clement, made much more interesting viewing. He discusses his label, show promotion, his fanzine and more. One of the most interesting sections was him going to Bridge 9 Records and the interview with Chris Wrenn.

The rest of the film features interviews with luminaries such as JOEY SHITHEAD, MARKY RAMONE, CHEETAH CHROME, JAYNE COUNTY, PENELOPE HOUSTON, ABRASIVE WHEELS, ZEROS, UK SUBS, SLF and even MONKEY from THE ADICTS (minus make-up!). Most are insightful and entertaining, but none more so than Jack Rabid, MDC and Sonny Vincent from THE TESTORS. Unfortunately, there's also that fuckwit Wattie from THE EXPLOITED. He actually has subtitles and spews a load of bonehead shite (including how Exploited Punks would beat up CRASS Punks which totally reinforces his bonehead-thug-moron reputation).

There's a range of extras including an alternative ending (which I prefer) and additional interviews with some of the personalities. Jack Rabid again steals the show with his comments on being put off drugs for life by seeing their effect on CHEETAH CHROME and JOHNNY THUNDERS! Penelope Houston gives her comments on the progression of Punk to Hardcore - most of which focus on the negatives. Finally there's the 'official trailer'.

The real highlights of this movie lie with the name performers - even though most of them don't tell us much new or original. The FNS stuff holds the interest also with Patrick displaying a genuine love of this Punk Rock thing that mirrors the likes of Shithead and Dictor. His is a D.I.Y. mentality and is someone who is out there doing it. The OBGYN saga can be found in any town with a bunch of friends who discover Punk Rock: For them it's just a passing phase of rebellion and fun before college/employment, relationships and families take over.

This is a film that anyone with an ingrained interest in Punk and its history would enjoy - although with repeated viewings the fast-forward button may be employed more and more frequently.

| Rules = No Rules |